



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Progress Report - Five 2002

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Report Highlights:

Rainfall activity during the week ending July 17 remained subdued for the third consecutive week, escalating the drought situation in north, central, and western India.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1], IN

Although the monsoon officially covered almost the entire country (except a narrow stretch covering Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana) on July 19, rainfall activity during the week ending July 17 remained subdued for the third consecutive week, escalating the drought situation in north, central, and western India. The drought is now invading peninsular and southern India (rice, cotton, coarse grains, and peanut), which have also been experiencing poor rains for the past three weeks. Only four of the thirty-six meteorological subdivisions (mostly in northeast India) received normal or above normal rainfall during the week (Fig 1). The situation is more serious in states like Rajasthan (coarse grains and pulses), West Madhya Pradesh (soybeans, corn, and pulses), Uttar Pradesh (rice, corn, pulses, and sugarcane), Punjab and Haryana (rice), East Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh (rice), which experienced scanty or no rains and above normal temperatures. Most other parts of the country received 50 to 90 percent below normal rainfall. The peanut belt of Gujarat, after heavy rains and floods, remained dry for the past two weeks. For the country as a whole, the area weighted rainfall during the week was less than one inch, 66 percent below normal. Paucity of rains has also resulted in electric power shortages and low water levels in many reservoirs, crippling agricultural operations in several states.

Cumulative rainfall during June 1 to July 17 was normal or above normal in only 14 of the 36 weather subdivisions (Fig. 2), a further drop from the previous week's 16, and significantly below last year's 27. The number of districts receiving below normal cumulative rainfall were a massive 366 or 69 percent of total districts. Union Agriculture Minister Ajit Singh has convened a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of eleven drought-affected states (Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka) on July 24 to discuss contingency plans to tackle the drought situation. A clearer picture of the impact of the drought on crop planting and production is likely to emerge in the meeting. The GOI is also reviewing its preparedness to move grains to drought affected areas through the Public Distribution System.

Figure 1. Rainfall During the Week Ending July 17

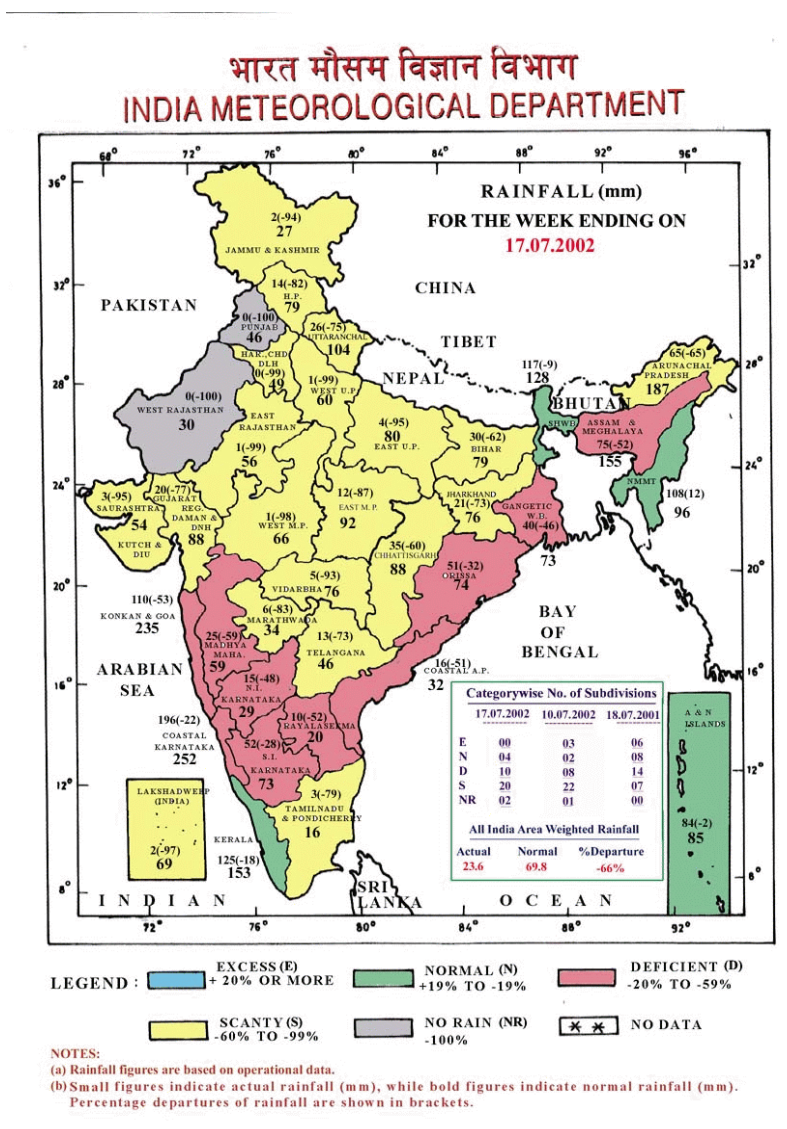


Figure 2. Cumulative Rainfall, June 1 to July 17

